

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 (1) An audio apparatus, comprising:

2 an recognizing logic for recognizing an external connection situation;

3 an audio volume setting logic for setting an audio volume according to the  
4 external connection situation recognized by said recognizing logic; and

5 a built-in speaker for outputting the audio volume set by said audio volume  
6 setting logic.

7 (2) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said recognizing logic recognizes  
8 one, or two or more, of power supply source connection situation, network  
9 connection situation, external voice output apparatus connection situation, and  
10 peripheral apparatus connection situation, as said external connection  
11 situation.

1 (3) The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said audio volume setting logic  
2 sets the audio volume according to one, or a combination of two or more, of  
3 power supply source connection situation, network connection situation,  
4 external speaker connection situation, and peripheral apparatus connection  
5 situation.

1 (4) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said audio volume setting logic  
2 increases/decreases or mutes the audio volume controlled by a user according  
3 to the external connection situation.  
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1 (5) An audio volume control method in an audio apparatus, wherein:  
2 hypothetical computer apparatus usage situations and audio volumes  
3 corresponding to those usage situations are stored in relational fashion;  
4 said hypothetical connection situations and the actual connection situation are  
5 compared when the audio apparatus is actually used; and  
6 when said actual connection situation and a said hypothetical connection  
7 situation match, the audio volume according to said hypothetical connection  
8 situation is extracted from said storage contents and used as the audio volume  
9 output from that audio apparatus.

1 (6) The method according to Claim 5, wherein, when the actual connection  
2 situation of said audio apparatus changes, said hypothetical connection  
3 situations and the actual connection situation are compared again, and the  
4 audio volume output from that audio apparatus is controlled on the basis of the  
5 result.

1 (7) A computer apparatus, comprising:

2 a built-in speaker incorporated into the computer apparatus;

3 an audio volume control logic for controlling the audio volume output from said  
4 built-in speaker;

5 a storage unit for storing, in relational fashion, hypothetical computer apparatus  
6 usage situations and audio volumes corresponding to those usage situations;  
7 and

8 a recognizing logic for recognizing the actual usage situation of the computer  
9 apparatus,

10 wherein said audio volume control logic selects, on the basis of the actual  
11 usage situation recognized by said recognizing logic, an audio volume suitable  
12 for that usage situation from said storage unit and sets that selected audio  
13 volume as the audio volume output from said built-in speaker.

1 (8) The apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein:

2 said computer apparatus uses a battery built into said computer apparatus or  
3 an external AC power supply as a power supply source;

4 said storage unit performs, in a relational fashion, storage of muting as the  
5 suitable audio volume when the power supply source of the computer  
6 apparatus is said battery; and

7 when said recognizing logic recognizes said battery as said power supply  
8 source, said audio volume control logic mutes the audio volume output from  
9 said built-in speaker.

1 (9) The apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising an indicator whereby,  
2 when said audio volume control logic mutes the audio volume, the fact that the  
3 audio volume is being muted is indicated visually.

1 (10) An audio apparatus, comprising:

2  
3 a muting logic for muting the output audio volume; and

4  
5 a mute canceling logic for canceling muting after the set value of the muted  
6 audio volume is changed during muting by said muting logic.

1 (11) The apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said mute canceling logic  
2 comprises:

3 a first mute canceling logic for canceling muting after the set value of the muted  
4 audio volume has been increased; and

5 a second mute canceling logic for canceling muting after the set value of the  
6 muted audio volume has been decreased.

1 (12) The apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a third mute canceling  
2 logic for canceling muting without changing the set value of the muted audio  
3 volume.

1 (13) The apparatus according to Claim 10, comprising an audio volume indicator for  
2 visually indicating the set value of the muted audio volume.

1 (14) A computer apparatus, comprising:  
2 a built-in speaker incorporated into the computer apparatus; and  
3 an audio volume control logic for controlling the audio volume output from said  
4 built-in speaker,  
5 wherein said audio volume control logic comprises a function whereby, when  
6 said output audio volume is being muted, said output audio volume is changed  
7 before muting is canceled, and muting is canceled later.